

could not be admitted. So on that basis I think that Senator Beutler's amendment is a good one, again, for the protection of those children. Someone had said earlier this afternoon that some of the Senators were voting no on this bill because they don't like the attitudes of some of the Fundamentalists. They may be, in fact, partially true. My reason for voting no though and the reason I would like to state to everyone else is again, that we are inviting other religious organizations, cults, whatever, into this state and I will give you a very graphic example and speak to you about this amendment. Last week on 20-20 I watched a segment of the program that showed several men, each having three, four or five wives, one of them I think had 78 children by four or five different women. Now Nebraska has a law against polygamy. There is also a religious cult that worships snakes and they handle snakes, all kinds of snakes. That, too, was on 20-20. Supposing they saw that Nebraska compromised its own laws that had been on the books for years, wouldn't they say, well, there is a place for us to take our snakes? Well, there is the place for me to take my five wives and my 70 children. Even though they may have laws against that, by golly, Nebraska will do anything to compromise. Senators, when did we ever get to that point where we are supposed to compromise our laws to accommodate, not 10 percent of the population, not even 5 percent of the population? This amendment simply says, I mean this newest amendment that Senator Vickers handed out, about twenty pages I think, says anybody that doesn't want to have accredited teachers, all they have to do is state to the Board of Education that they have sincerely held religious beliefs or principles of conscience that are contrary to our state laws. Well now those polygamists that I saw on television last week said they had very...(interruption.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...strong religious beliefs and that is why they had four or five wives and those people who worship snakes do so in the name of a religious belief. Where does it end? What other cults, what other religions, and I mean no disrespect to the Fundamentalists, but where does it end that this state says we have written a law for the common